

CLAIMS:

1. An electric discharge lamp comprising:
 - a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel (1);
 - a first and a second current conductor (2,3) entering the discharge vessel (1) and each supporting an electrode (4,5) in the discharge vessel (1);
 - 5 - an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the discharge vessel (1);

at least the first current conductor (2) within the discharge vessel (1) being halide-resistant, characterized in that the first current conductor (2) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.
- 10 2. An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein said material is chosen from the group of $Y_pSi_3X_q$, wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C with $4 \leq p \leq 5$ and $0 < q \leq 1$.
- 15 3. An electric discharge lamp according to claim 2, wherein said material is of the composition $Mo_6(Si_x, Mo_{1-x})_4(C_y, Si_{1-y})_6$ with $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$ and $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$.
4. An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein also the second current conductor (3) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least

20 substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.
5. An electric discharge lamp according to claim 4, wherein said material is of the composition $Mo_6(Si_x, Mo_{1-x})_4(C_y, Si_{1-y})_6$ with $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$ and $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$.
- 25 6. An electric discharge lamp according to any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5, wherein said material is co-sintered to the ceramic material of the discharge vessel (1) at a manufacturing temperature of the lamp.

7. An electric discharge lamp according to any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5, wherein the first and the second current conductor (2,3) each extend from a sealing compound (6), which seals the discharge vessel (1) around the current conductors (2,3) in a gastight manner, to the exterior of the discharge vessel (1), and wherein the
- 5 discharge vessel (1) has projecting plugs (11,12) in each of which a respective current conductor (2,3) is enclosed and which plugs (11,12) each have a free end (111,112) where the discharge vessel (1) is sealed by the sealing compound (6).